

Weekly Column for October 4, 2007

There is a three-day weekend coming up and as usual there is plenty to talk about in Troy.

Sunday will be a day of excitement in the City for two noteworthy and important events. The first is the Firefighter Tug of War on the Green Island Bridge, dubbed as East v. West. Set up to benefit volunteer Fire Departments around the area, the Tug Of War will be a great time. The Green Island Bridge will obviously be closed for parts of the afternoon, so if you are traveling that way, you may want to take an alternate route.

All of the information you need for the event is available by visiting www.firetug.com. The money raised from the event will go to volunteer Fire Departments on both sides of the Hudson River. Obviously, as a municipality that enjoys 24-hour police and fire coverage, we sometimes forget what a relief that can be, knowing someone is there to protect you. The men and women that volunteer to do this job are vitally important to their communities and raising money for them is equally important. After the actual Tug Of War, there will be a party in the park in Watervliet for everyone to relax.

Back on this side of the River, the 3rd Annual Empty Bowls fund-raiser will take place Sunday at the Italian Community Center from Noon to 3 p.m. For those of you that don't know, this is a great event in which local artists team up with restaurants for an exciting day in which your \$10 donation will allow you to pick out the handcrafted bowl of your choice, and then encouraged to try the many different soups donated by our local restaurateurs.

Here are the restaurants and chefs that are participating: The Ale House, Jackie Baldwin, DeFazio's Imports & Pizzeria, Flavour's Café & Lounge, Italian Community Center, LoPorto's, Miele's Café, Patricelli's Deli, Francesca's, Carmen's Café, Illium Café, Jose Malone's, Muza's Diner, Potters Tavern at Sterup Square and Tosca.

The donations go to local food pantries, including: Bethany Center, Commission on Economic Opportunity, Hope 7 Community Center, Joseph's House, St. Mary's Food Pantry, The Rourke Center, Troy Damian Center, Unity House, Italian Community Center, Troy Larger Parish Food Pantry and Troy Y.W.C.A.

It is a wonderful time, and I certainly encourage everyone to attend.

Finally, if you are a resident of downtown, Hill Street or 4th Street, be prepared for some traffic congestion and a few inconveniences next week as the City will be performing a major road improvement project by milling and paving these sections of the City. It will likely be a week-long project, but will be worth it in the end. Any questions, please contact the Department of Public Works at 270-4579.

Have a great weekend!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy